the overseas Indian Community. The most fervent plea made by the Indian Diaspora was to provide for a single-window mechanism for its interaction with India. The High Level Committee in its Report recommended the setting up of an autonomous and empowered body structured along the line of the Planning Commission to deal with matters pertaining to the Indian Diaspora. The Government has not taken any decision in the matter.

TRI-lateral Conference

2388. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had refrained from formal participation in the recently heldTrack-ll Tri-lateral Conference of the top military/intelligence/security experts from U.S., Israel and India;

(b) whether the Conference held in India deliberated on the security, military and defence co-operation among the three countries; and

(c) whether the Conference was attended by any serving army officers and others; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Track II dialogue, by definition, involves participation of experts outside the government.

(b) It is reported that the conference discussed a number of issues, including potential for cooperation between India, the United States and Israel on security matters.

(c) Track II Conference do not have official participation.

Delay in issuance of passports in Rajasthan

2389. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of inordinate delay in issuance of passports in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of passports issued to the applicants in the State during the last three years and as on date, year-wise;